



# The Southwester

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Serving the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront Communities

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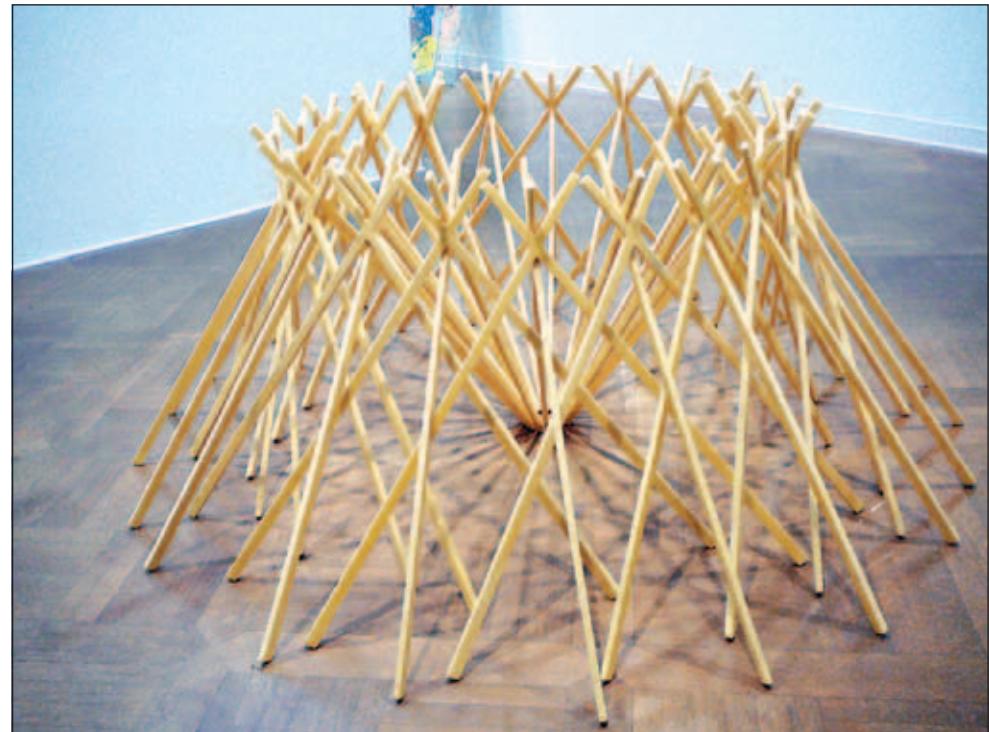
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## Jefferson Trojans play in City Championship for fourth straight year

The Jefferson Trojans football team once again reached the City Championship. This year's team record was 8-2, winning the West Division Championship but falling short of winning the City title to Kramer Middle School, with a score of 47 to 33. The team was lead by Southwest Student and Quarterback Tyjaze Monroe along with another leader on the field and in the classroom, 1 Brian Higginbotham, 3 Qavadius Holmes, 5 Trevon Simmons, 6 Michael "Show Time" Briscoe, 9 Tyjaze Monroe, 10 Aaron Calder, 12 Christian Staton, 17 Xavier Sumpter, 18 Terrell Brown, 22 Quinell Hargrove, 23 Keith Wilkins, 28 Tysheed Tucker, 30 Kenneth Brown, 33 Marcus Johnson, 35 Charles Dunham, 36 Jordan "Hit Man" Clark, 44 Justin McFadden, 45 Clint Broadus, 46 Darius "Debow" Pitts, 50 John Cashwell, 52 David Slade-Green, 56 Anyia Devaugh, 58 Niko Foster, 59 Ajani Young, 70 Maurice Spencer, 73 Darrence Brown, 77 Marc Gaskins, 80 Armonta Harris, 59 Daunte Jones and 99 Alexander Tutt. The Jefferson Football Team and the staff wishes to thank all the parents, fans and friends who came out to support them all year. Photo by W. Jones.



As part of the Corcoran Gallery of Art's exhibit on "Modern and Contemporary Art Since 1945," Southwest D.C. artist Mary Early has a sculpture "Untitled (wreath)" in Gallery 25 on the second floor. Created 2008-2010, the balsa wood, wood glue, cheesecloth, and beeswax sculpture was a gift of Lenore Winters and George Hemphill. The Corcoran notes that "Early's sculptural installations investigate space through the intersection of form, line, light, and shadow. Her interest in geometry and the natural world informs her approach toward materials, which are selected to layer and transform both the object and the gallery." The Corcoran will be free to Southwest residents on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. as part of Randall Neighbor Day. Also at the Corcoran is the special exhibition, "30 Americans," which is part of the Rubell Family Collection. The Rubells own the Capitol Skyline Hotel in Southwest D.C. Photo by Perry Klein.

## ROC Ensemble Awarded Grant to Perform Concerts in SW

The Friends of Southwest DC (FOS), along with support from the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA), has awarded the brand-new ROC Ensemble a grant to perform concerts for the Southwest neighborhood in January.

The director of ROC Ensemble is professional saxophonist and professor, Connie Frigo, a Southwest resident from July 2009 to August 2011. She performed often in the Southwest community before moving this past summer to Athens, Georgia, to accept a music faculty position at the University of Georgia. Frigo also volunteered regularly as a cook for the Sunday community breakfast sponsored by St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. She is returning to both Southwest and St. Augustine's in January and performing with the ROC ensemble. There will be a free community concert on Saturday, Jan. 7 and another concert on Sunday, Jan. 8 at the St. Augustine's homeless breakfast.

Friends of Southwest DC serves nonprofit organizations in Southwest by supporting educational, community development and charitable activities. Frigo first learned about them when she applied for a grant in 2010 to support a similar musical residency in Southwest. The project, which included three live performances, took her quartet to Amidon-Bowen



Former Southwest resident, professional saxophonist and professor, Connie Frigo, will perform a free concert in Southwest with her new group, ROC Ensemble, on Jan. 7. Photo by J. Wade Tipton, Gallery portraits, Knoxville, TN.

Elementary School and St. Augustine's Episcopal Church for a free community evening concert, as well as a performance for its Sunday community breakfast. That project was so well received that Frigo approached FOS again this fall to inquire about returning with a new group she is starting: the ROC Ensemble.

The ROC Ensemble is a 10-member group that includes eight saxophones, one jazz pianist

and one percussionist. The members are from Texas, Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Maryland and China, and are all former students of Frigo's from the universities of Tennessee, Maryland, and Georgia. Frigo noted, "When I began to consider who to invite to be a part of this group, it was obvious to lean towards former students who I know well, but more importantly, who I know will

work well together personally and musically. I know what they can bring forward. They also know how I work."

Frigo also sought something else for this group: to allow their experience to serve as a model that they can use to bring music into their own communities across the country. "Each member plays a role in the planning process. Someone writes the music. Someone coordinates travel and lodging. Someone will get video and audio footage of our rehearsals. Everyone clears their schedules and commits with the same enthusiasm. These are important skills for young musicians to apply."

ROC plans to push the boundaries between classical, jazz and pop music, but not for the sake of pushing boundaries; rather because its members are a mix of classical, jazz and rock-inspired musicians. Their program highlights the musical strengths and interests of its members and features special arrangements of songs by Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder and Radiohead, among others.

ROC stands for "Road of Creativity," which is Frigo's consulting business that teaches musicians to think like entrepreneurs and businesses to think like artists. The ROC Ensemble is living that message every step of the way. Join

*Continued on Page 2*

## CONCERTS

*From p. 1*

them at St. Augustine's Church on Saturday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. for what promises to be an evening full of surprises, new sounds and a sense of community.

For more information, visit [www.roadofcreativity.com](http://www.roadofcreativity.com). To contact Friends of Southwest DC, email President Dr. Coralie Farlee at [cfdc13@yahoo.com](mailto:cfdc13@yahoo.com).

**Saturday, Jan., 7 at 7 p.m., ROC will perform a FREE concert at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW. No tickets required.**

**Correction:** A photo caption on page 4 of the October issue of The Southwester incorrectly identified the Second Union Baptist Church as the Second Baptist Church. The two churches are both in Southwest D.C. but are separate congregations.



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# ANC 6D: November Meeting Highlights

**By Tiffany Klaff**

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) asked ANC 6D to give an opinion on moving the bus shelter at the SE corner of Fourth and M streets, SW to the Route #74 bus stop in front of the Bank of America trailer. They also suggested ANC 6D ask the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to enforce the no-parking signs at this and other neighborhood bus stops. WMATA reported that a new bus stop has been installed outside Arena Stage and that electrical power will be installed at neighborhood bus shelters in preparation for new electronic "Next Bus" signs that have been promised by December. The commission also reviewed a request for action from DDOT for Metrobus Route #74. A friendly amendment was made to include the consent of ANC 2C regarding the removal of two parking spaces at the north end of the #74 Route, which is in ANC 2C's area.

Commissioner Craycraft made a motion to request DDOT install sidewalks and crosswalks to make an ADA-approved walkway from the SW Library at Wesley Place and the Southwest Duck Pond at Mackemie Place. Crosswalks and signage will result in the loss of up to four parking spaces. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Rhonda Hamilton raised a concern with builders not requiring community comment for work permits outside of normal construction hours (7 a.m.-7 p.m.). Another motion passed to send a letter to the District Department of Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) to develop a process that will give ANCs more notice and allow for community input before requesting after-hours permits affecting residents in neighboring areas.

Representatives from developer Forest City reported on minor modifications in their design for their building at Fourth and M streets, SE. The building will house a Harris Teeter grocery store and a gym as well as residential housing. Construction is slated to begin mid-

December and should be complete in late 2013/early 2014.

Commission Cara Shockley introduced a resolution to recognize the SE-SW Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC) as the ANC's official organizational partner for negotiating community benefits with developers Hoffman Madison Waterfront for The Wharf project. The resolution passed 6-0-1, with Chairman McBee recusing himself because he is on the board of the CBCC.

The ANC 6D Treasurer, Commission Shockley, presented a proposed 2012 budget, which is at a reduced level due to District-wide reductions.

*The next regular business meeting of ANC 6D will be on Monday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m., in the District Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) Hearing Room, 1100 Fourth St., SW, 2nd floor. For additional information or a meeting agenda visit <http://www.anc6d.org>*

## Community Calendar

### DECEMBER

**FRI. 2** District of Columbia Public Library Staff Day. Southwest Public Library is closed all day for staff training.

**6:30 P.M.** Potluck Dinner and 7 p.m. Family Game Night, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW

**SAT. 3 4 P.M.** Parade of Lighted Boats and Tree Lighting, 7th Street Landing

**7 P.M.** Art & Spirit Coffeehouse showcasing local artists in their various media as they perform and share how their faith, art and social worldview intersect, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW

**THURS. 8 6:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M.** Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells' 5th Annual Livable, Walkable Awards. Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital, 921 Pennsylvania Ave., SE. Food, drink, cash bar, live entertainment and an awards ceremony.

**7 P.M.** Community meeting on emergency preparedness led by SW Emergency Preparedness Task Force. Amidon-Bowen Elementary School, 401 I (Eye) St. SW

**MON. 12 7 P.M.** ANC 6D regular business meeting. DCRA Hearing Room, 1100 Fourth St., SW, 2nd floor. Open to the public. Visit [www.anc6d.org](http://www.anc6d.org) for meeting agenda.

**WED. 14 6 P.M.** SW ArtsFest board meeting, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St., SW

**THURS. 15 7 P.M.** Police Service Area (PSA) Community Meeting, Carrollsburg, A Condominium, Thelma Martin Room, 240 M St., SW (ground floor).

**SAT. 17 10 A.M.** Holiday Craft Party for SW Neighborhood, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St., SW 1 p.m. Thinking About Jazz, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St., SW

**TUES. 20** First night of Chanukah

**SAT. 24** Christmas Eve

**SUN. 25** Christmas Day

**WED. 28** Last night of Chanukah

**SAT. 31** New Year's Eve

### JANUARY

**SUN. 1** New Year's Day

**SAT. 7 7 P.M.** ROC Ensemble at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW. FREE. Program features eight saxophones, jazz piano and percussion playing songs of Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder and Radiohead.

### WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

**TEEN BOOK CLUB** Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW, every other Tuesday, 4 p.m.

**GRAPHIC NOVEL READ-IN** Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW, every other Thursday, 4 p.m.

**PRESCHOOL STORY TIME**, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW, every Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m. Ages 2-5.

**THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT**, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St. SW, every first and third Monday from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**MONDAY EVENING FILMS**, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW, every Monday, 6:30 p.m. Experience a different cinematic treat every week. Call 202-724-4752 for movie titles. All ages.

**COMPUTER CLASSES FOR ADULTS**, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, every Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon.

**THE SOUTH WASHINGTON WEST OF THE RIVER FATHERHOOD PROGRAM**, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St., SW, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. For more information, call Alphonso Coles at (202) 870-1885.

**SOUTHWEST SEWING GROUP**, Mondays, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW. Contact Willie Mae Stukes, sewing teacher, at (301) 445-1792. Open to all interested in working on their own sewing projects and updating their hand and/or machine sewing skills. Mondays, except for July and August.

**SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA**, Alcoholics Anonymous group, Mondays, 8:30 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St., SW, (202) 554-3222.

**SW FREEWAY NA**, Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.-8 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St., SW (202) 484-7700.

**HAND DANCING CLASSES**, Jitter bug, lindy hop. Saturdays, 12 p.m.-1 p.m. Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/class for adults, \$5/class for children ages 8-17. Christ United Methodist community room off Wesley Pl., SW.

**HAIKU TO HIP HOP**, creative writing workshop Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. For ages 12 through 19, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW, For all levels, even beginners.

**CHESS AND SCRABBLE CLUB**, Southwest Library main room, 900 Wesley Pl., Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. For all levels, all ages.

**BLUES MONDAYS**, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Various blues musicians and singers featured each Monday, \$5. Food for sale, SW Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St., SW (202) 484-7700.

**WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS**, 4 p.m. Seated yoga (Pamela Wilson), 5 p.m. Tai Chi (Manifest Ra), 5:30 p.m. Laughter yoga (Claire Trivedi), 6:45 p.m. Sampoorna Hatha Yoga (Alex Rosen). Free with donations welcome, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St., SW (202) 484-7700.

**JAZZ NIGHT IN SW**, Fridays, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Various jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday, \$5. Food for sale. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St., SW (202) 484-7700.

**WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB**, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. First and third Wednesday each month. Buy, sell, and trade stamps. Refreshments, auctions, and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 300 block I (Eye) St., SW (202) 291-6229.

*Please submit calendar items for January events by email to [editor@thesouthwester.com](mailto:editor@thesouthwester.com) by December 15, 2011.*

# History of public parks in Southwest Washington: Planning parks for the Urban Renewal Project

This is the first of a series of five articles describing the history of parks in the 1950-70s Urban Renewal Project in Southwest Washington. This first installment describes the area's parks before Urban Renewal and general planning for parks and other public landscaping during the project. Later articles will discuss specifically: Lansburgh Park, Town Center Parks, Waterfront Parks, and little Amidon Sidewalk Park. The research for this project was conducted in documents of the government agencies involved in the Urban Renewal Project found in agency and other government archives and was conducted at the request of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA). The author is a Washington tour guide and active preservationist.

**By Hayden M. Wetzel**

**B**efore the Urban Renewal demolition of 1954, all of Southwest Washington (north of the Anacostia River) contained only 30 acres dedicated to public recreation. Most of this land was attached to the area's two junior high schools (Jefferson and Randall) and smaller parcels at its seven elementary schools. The only public playground in Southwest was Hoover Playground, now the southern portion of King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Hoover was constructed in 1918 and named for Samuel Hoover, who left the land to the city in his will to establish a public park. In the early 1950s, much of Hoover was in fact covered with temporary wartime housing. Southwest residents could take a ferry to East Potomac Park for their recreation.

Plans of the three agencies most involved in park and landscaping during Urban Renewal – the city's Redevelopment Land Agency (RLA), the federal National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the National Park Service (NPS) – seldom focused on parks in the newly built area; there was simply an assumption that the project would create more green space for residents. In the early 1950s, these agencies commissioned five separate plans for the overall project area, and all of them projected 53-60 acres set aside for parks and recreational spaces (including school playgrounds). Besides enlarging Hoover Playground, these plans created new parks but did not agree where they would be located. The present location of Southwest public parks appears in the 1952 RLA annual report, except for the Town Center Parks, which are first seen in the 1957 report.

Another aspect of the greening of the new Southwest derived from the closing of many streets to create superblocks – something seldom practiced in Washington prior to this project. Most of the closed streets became part of land parcels put out to bid for residential development, but nonetheless these street

right-of-ways remained open; they form the clear walkways between Sixth Street and the Waterfront, for example, for the parking areas and through-drives of Capitol Park or behind the Town Center high-rise. These closed streets remained that way to not only to preserve the aesthetics of the city's L'Enfant plan but also for the practical reason that many utilities were buried beneath them and moving these would have been expensive.

Besides the green areas maintained over closed streets, builders of private residential projects constructed a multitude of circles, cul-de-sacs and other small park spaces in Southwest. The two small traffic circles along G Street, for example, were the idea of the Capitol Park developer. Another example of a public space constructed by a private builder is the fine semi-circular park at Sixth and G streets. The city government widened many sidewalks (for example, along Fourth Street between G and I streets), and moved the old Maine Avenue, which hugged the waterfront all the way to P Street, away from the water to create space for parks, a long walk and (naturally) commercial building. All the residential projects included their own landscaping plans, many made by famous landscape architects, and which give pleasure both to their residents and to passers-by.

Planning for exact placement of each park continued among the various agencies until 1962. Construction of Southwest parks began in the mid-1960s (Lansburgh was the first) and continued until the completion of the last Waterfront and Town Center Parks in 1972. (The circular Tenth Street Overlook, later renamed Banneker Circle and dedicated in 1968, was not researched and therefore will not be discussed in this series.) Each park was designed by a different team of landscape architects and faced its own obstacle course of review requirements.

The next article in this series will focus on Lansburgh Park.

## Blotter

By John McGrath

### Highlights of Monthly PSA 104 Meeting, Thursday, Nov. 17, Riverside Condominium

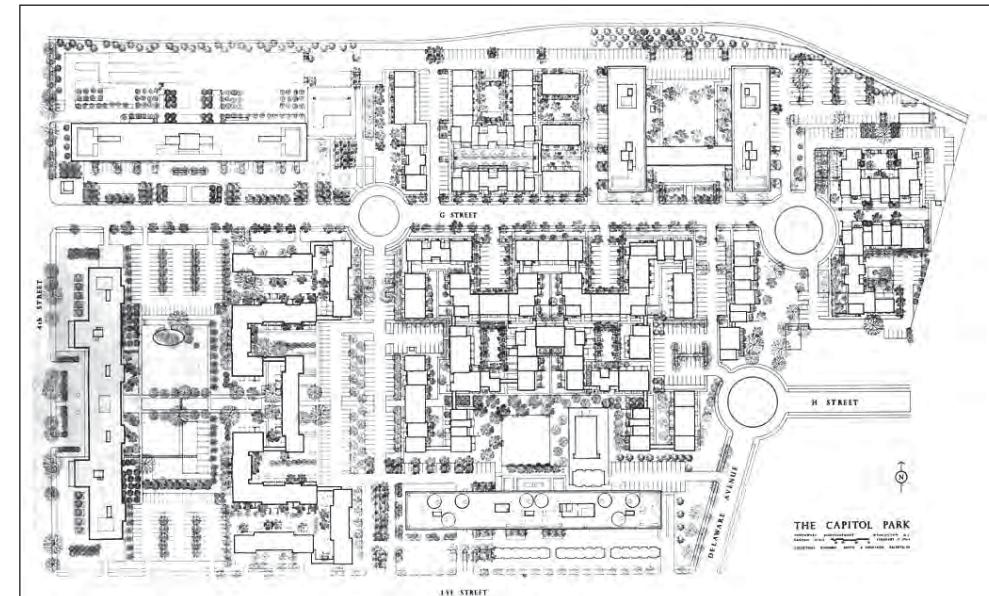
**Participants:** Sgt. Michael Architzel (substituting for Lt. Nicholas Gallucci) of PSA 104; Public Housing Police; Naomi Monk and Irv Gamza, PSA 104 meeting coordinators/facilitators; Bob Craycraft, ANC Commissioner (6D01); a total of 27 attendees.

Sgt. Architzel reviewed the crime statistics year-to-date as of October 31, 2011, compared with 2010: (1) Violent crime is up 11.9% overall with significant increases in Robbery +19.6% (61 vs. 51) and Assault

with a Deadly Weapon +24.4% (51 vs. 41); (2) Property Crime is down 3.4% overall, but Theft, especially bicycle theft, is up 26.9% (217 vs. 171); (3) police noted that some reported cases of Stolen Auto are in fact due to towing of vehicles.

Sgt. Architzel and audience members discussed the specifics of two recent robberies along the Fourth Street, SW corridor. A Safeway manager was robbed (with a gun) of money and personal effects near Fourth and M streets, SW on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011. Police made a prompt arrest. Personal effects were recovered but no money was recovered. In another case, a Carrollsburg Condominium resident was approached by a group of teenage girls who asked to borrow

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Above, the plan for Capitol Park, showing the careful integration of green spaces into the residential buildings. Photo courtesy of Capitol Park.

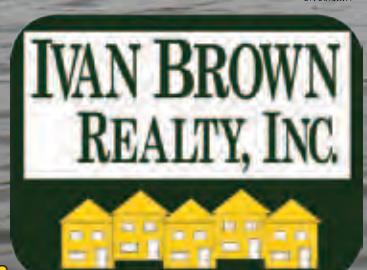
At left, today's semi-circular park at Sixth and G streets, SW, an example of a public space in Southwest constructed by a private builder. Photo by Hayden M. Wetzel.



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# South by West

**By William Rich, a blogger at Southwest...The Little Quadrant that Could ([www.southwestquadrant.blogspot.com](http://www.southwestquadrant.blogspot.com))**

## Wharf Park Planning Moves Forward

Landscape architects charged with designing the planned waterfront park at The Wharf, a nearly \$2 billion redevelopment of the Southwest Waterfront, attended the Oct. 24 Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Community meeting and presented their initial concept. Warren Byrd from Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects gave the presentation. The initial concept design was the result of the charrette process held over the past few months with 33 community members that was convened by Hoffman-Madison Waterfront and attended by representatives from Byrd Woltz as well as Lee and Associates, Inc., the other landscape architectural firm involved with the park design.

During the charrette process, participants walked through the proposed park site, a 4.2-acre parcel located at the southern end of the Southwest Waterfront by the Harbor Patrol pier that currently serves as a parking lot for the Odyssey and Spirit cruise boats. The group discussed which elements of a park were most important for the community and then talked over two alternatives for the park based on the priorities established earlier in the process.

The concept design resulted in a park similar

in shape to a fan, a departure from the circular or rectangular parks found in other areas of the city. An informal lawn area will cover the northeastern corner of the park with a pergola wrapping along the edge and an interactive water feature. This area will be raised higher in order to afford a better view down toward the Washington Channel and Potomac River beyond.

Gardens will be planted near the 50-year old willow oaks that frame the northern and eastern border of the park. Play mounds will be provided near the informal lawn and curving paths created throughout the park. An element of the park the developers have requested through the Planned Unit Development process is a pavilion, at which some food and beverage service as well as storage for park-related furnishings will be located. The pavilion will be designed to be less intrusive to the landscape for nearby residents at Harbour Square that have views of the park, with the possibility of the pavilion being embedded in the hillside because the access road (another necessary portion of the park) will be at a lower grade than the informal lawn.

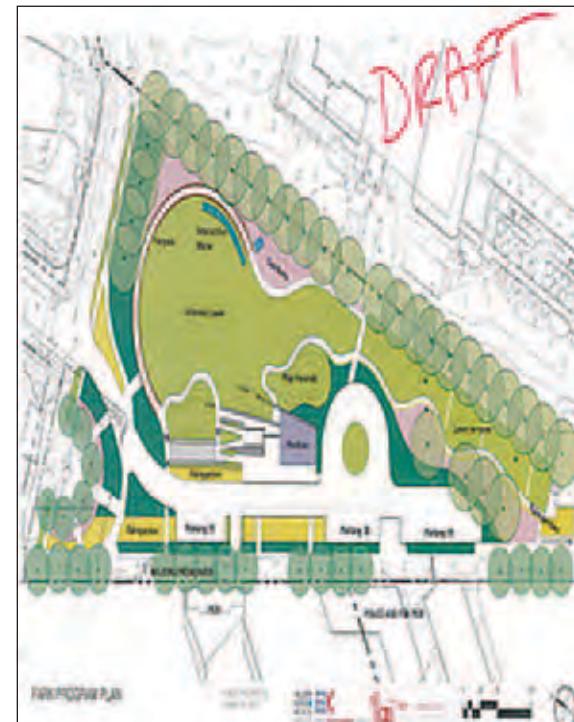
Rain gardens will be interspersed throughout to help retain rainwater runoff before entering the Washington Channel. One of the areas on which charrette participants agreed was that the park should provide a variety of color as the seasons change, so tree plantings will be diverse. A total of 26 parking spaces have to be maintained for guests of the townhouses proposed to be

built at Pier 4 and the existing Harbor Patrol. A traffic circle is also a necessity for the Harbor Patrol to be used for emergencies.

Most of the land to the south of the traffic circle is owned by the National Park Service (NPS), but Hoffman-Madison Waterfront wants to work with NPS to rehabilitate the area leading down to the Titanic Memorial with lawn terraces and a rain garden.

Over the next several months, the landscape architects will refine the park's design and another charrette will be convened to obtain more input from the community as the process moves forward. Construction of the park will occur during the first phase of development at The Wharf, which is scheduled to get underway by the end of 2012.

For an update on Waterfront Station, visit [www.thesouthwester.com](http://www.thesouthwester.com)



The initial concept drawing for the waterfront park calls for a design resembling a fan with spaces for a variety of uses. Rendering courtesy of Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects and Lee and Associates, Inc.

## Equivocation and You, Nero arrive at Arena Stage

By Sheila Wickouski

**A**t first glance, Arena's two holiday offerings might not seem very festive. However, both plays have received critical praise in previous productions, making them good bets for seasonal presents.

Worlds of politics and art collide in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's production of "Equivocation" by Bill Cain.

Renowned playwright William Shakespeare and his troupe are commissioned to produce a

piece of propaganda for the court of King James in London in 1605 during the time of the Gunpowder Plot. Survival and salvation are at stake in this political thriller which has been called a "bracingly intelligent" and "sizzling" drama.

Resident playwright Amy Freed's play "You, Nero," is a farce set in Rome. A forgotten playwright watches the Roman empire collapses under Nero's rule. It's glorious fun for all as he tries to convince the outrageous emperor to choose virtue over vice by the art of the theater.

## WANT TO GO?

**WHAT?** Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Production of Bill Cain's "Equivocation" (to Jan. 1, 2012) in the Kreeger Theater and Amy Freed's "You, Nero" (Jan. 1, 2012) in the Fichandler. Southwest Night for "You, Nero" is Saturday, Dec. 24, 2011, at 8 p.m.

**TICKETS:** \$55-85 subject to change and based on availability, plus applicable fees. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.arenastage.org](http://www.arenastage.org).

[arenastage.org](http://www.arenastage.org), by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth St., SW, D.C.

For information on savings programs <http://www.arenastage.org/shows-tickets/single-tickets/savings-programs>

**WHEN:** Regular performances are Tuesday, Wednesday & Sunday at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.; weekday matinee at noon on Tuesday

# Allen A. Flood, M.D.

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We support The Southwester through our advertising.

# America is a Business Improvement District

**Opinion article by Andrew Finken**

I was recently introduced to a new level of government that, for all of government's flaws these days, is actually pretty refreshing. It is called a business improvement district, or BID. In terms of geography, BIDs are quite small – the Washington D.C. area, for example, has about a dozen – and they do not provide an overly large number of services either. They can, however, make a big difference, and thinking about the way they work has reminded me not only of the purpose of government, but of the other, and maybe more important, side of the coin: the role that we citizens are required to play within well-functioning government.

Downtown D.C.'s BID specializes in clean, safe and friendly: it provides numerous trash and recycling bins per block, and then changes them several times per day; it dispatches people in bright vests to assist tourists with navigation and to recommend local amenities; it creates marketing strategies and neighborhood events to highlight local businesses. The closest BID to the Southwest neighborhood, the Capital Riverfront BID, carries out similar tasks, but, in light of the neighborhood's structural revitalization, it

focuses those activities on attracting residents and retail to its bevy of underdeveloped spaces. The BID for nearby Crystal City, Virginia, a fortress of government-contractor high-rises, however, focuses almost exclusively on engaging its young and highly urban, local and professional population in after-work and weekend cultural and outdoor events. The demographics and landscape of these areas are starkly different, despite their proximity, but what these BIDs have in common is that, in a rare form of direct democracy, they give their constituents exactly what they want.

See, BIDs are originally formed by proximate businesses leaders with a common purpose by pooling a small percentage of their resources, about one percent of income, for the purpose of providing a few things that they could never afford individually but that are crucial to stabilizing the environment in which they run their businesses. The level of trash service described above, for example, would be much too expensive for one business to undertake by itself; yet, by providing this service through a partnership, each business receives a benefit greater than the amount it contributed to the organization that

provides the service. This is the sweet trick of the public good, which the BID model beautifully exemplifies.

After a BID is created, its management is entrusted to an administrator whose responsibility it becomes to carry out the organization's mission. Founding business leaders are then relegated to the BID's board, yet they continue to set the BID's guiding policy. Is this process starting to sound familiar?

It is this close participation by a BID's business board, which is both its own constituency and its representatives, that keeps it moving efficiently, effectively and in the right direction. Now, clearly the federal government is much too large, handling an extraordinarily diverse set of issues, to benefit from a similar level of constituency participation. In fact, it is a struggle even for congresspeople to give the myriad issues a corresponding level of attention. However, it appears that instead of at least attempting to fulfill its detrimental role in the management of government, a large segment of the public is actively attempting to make sure that they do not even have the opportunity to try.

I was patriotically disenfranchised earlier this year by the vivacity with which both America's representatives and its constituents were pursuing an end to citizens' civic participation through the attempt to erase funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB); that is, taxpayer support for public television and radio. Such an action would obviously decrease the public's scrutiny of politicians' actions, so I understand the logic behind individual politicians attempting it. But for a constituency such

as the tea party, a movement that is meticulously critical of every action of government, to demand an end to the information that allows them to know the details of government is a difficult thing to understand. Mitt Romney's recent statement that he would defund CPB is equally bewildering, given that his campaign centered on holding government accountable.

This is the crucial thing to understand; the missing part of the puzzle: Public broadcasters do not work for the government; they work for its constituents. The BID model showcases direct democracy. The U.S. is too big for direct democracy. As a result, people choose representatives to sit on a board, Congress, to do the job of the BID's business board: set policy, which is carried out by the president, and evaluate its implementation. Likewise, Congress holds the administration accountable for its implementation of policy. Citizens hold Congress responsible for its policy and oversight of the administration, or at least they are supposed to. In the BID model, the business board is a metaphor for both Congress and the press, but a press without independence will not do.

An independent press is as much a public good as the BID's trash removal – an interesting simile – and thinking of public broadcasting in these terms clarifies why it is that the funding for a certain portion of America's news must come directly from its citizens. A press that is beholden to Comcast, Viacom or Rupert Murdoch, regardless of the politics, will not provide the necessary scrutiny. Unless, that is, we want to make them a part of the metaphor as well.

## Re-viewing documentary: *The Photographic Life of Louise Rosskam* has special interest for residents of Southwest

By Sheila Wickouski

Rosskam, one of the Farm Service Administration photographers during the Roosevelt era, lived with her husband Edwin in a three-story row house at 476 N St., SW.

About two dozen of her photographs of Southwest before urban renewal projects are part of a retrospective of her works now at the Katzen Art Center.

Highlight of the show is her Kodachrome image *Shulman's Market, 485 1/2 N at Union St. SW, Washington, D.C.* This iconic work is featured in other current art shows of Kodachrome, from the Depression to post-World War II, a time period which is most often documented in black and white.

Rosskam used Kodachrome for the architectural scenes of her neighborhood, and not for decorative effect as did popular advertisements. Her most poignant works are those of people in black and white such as photos of Barney Neighborhood Settlement House at 470 N St. SW and of a Mock Wedding Parade on N Street in 1942.

Louise's husband was the more renowned photographer of the two. His photo *July Negro family and their home in one of their alley dwelling sections, Washington DC 1941* is also in the exhibit. Who the family was is not recorded, but they were neighbors and friends of the Rosskams. This photo combines the informality of a snap shot with the dignified pose of studio portrait.



Louise Rosskam, Children in doorway at Barney Neighborhood Settlement House, 470 N. Street, SW, Washington, D.C., ca. 1941–42. Photo courtesy of Maier Museum of Art, Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA.

As a side note, while I was viewing the exhibit, I met one of the former residents of N Street in the 1940s. He remembers that Rosskam took a picture of his family's house, of his mother sending him to Shulman's store where they

*Continued on Page 6*

### WANT TO GO?

**WHAT:** Re-viewing Documentary: *The Photographic Life of Louise Rosskam*  
**WHERE:** American University Museum at the Katzen Art Center, 4400 Mass Ave. NW.  
**WHEN:** to Dec. 14.  
**INFORMATION:** 202-885-1000 or American.edu

### CAN'T GET TO THE SHOW:

Re-viewing Documentary: *The Photographic Life of Louise Rosskam* by Laura Katzen and Beverly W. Brannan is available at the American University Museum. The Library of Congress has made many of Louise Rosskam's collections available online.

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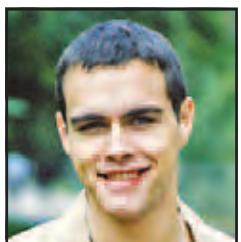
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## Excess belly fat linked to bone loss

By Derrick Inglut

We all have our own reasons why we'd like a flatter stomach. For some it's purely for health reasons, but for many people who may not want to admit it, it is for vanity. Either way, there is no wrong reason if it provides the motivation you need to keep up your efforts at the gym.

Now you have even more reason to get your fitness plan in gear. A recent study has found that excess belly fat is linked to bone loss. The study, led by Dr. Miriam Bredella and the Radiologist Society of North America found that excess visceral (deep internal fat) belly fat was linked to low bone-mineral density. In the study, 50 premenopausal women with body mass indexes of around 30 (30 is generally considered obese) had lower bone-mineral density than women who just had only subcutaneous (just below the surface of skin) fat around the hips.

There are other factors that cause bone loss as well. Aging is the most common culprit for low bone density, often leading to easily broken or frail bones. Every time your body makes energy in the mitochondria of its cells, small amounts of

calcium are depleted from the body. Therefore, calcium, which is vital to the energy process, is slowly depleted over time. Fortunately, there are some easy solutions to prevent bone loss as you grow older.

Lift weights! Resistance training has been proven to increase bone density in very short amounts of time. If you just do cardio, you are not getting this benefit.

Add a mineral supplement to your regime. Many people take vitamins but often overlook taking mineral supplements. They are just as important as vitamins and are part of any solid supplementation program. Calcium, magnesium and zinc are the three most popular minerals used by professionals, but everyone's requirements are different. Be sure to check with your doctor first to see what amounts may be right for you.

*Derrick Inglut is a professional personal trainer and columnist for The Southwester. He can be contacted at derrick1051@hotmail.com.*

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## Washington Nationals Dream Foundation & Rebuilding Together DC team up to renovate Shirley's Place

By Alexandra Schauffler

As part of its annual Community Rebuilding Project, the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation partnered with Rebuilding Together DC in November to revitalize Shirley's Place, a daytime hospitality center for homeless families in Southeast D.C.

From electrical repairs to carpentry projects, volunteers from the Nationals facilities staff were hard at work enhancing the safe, healthy environment that the facility provides. Improvements included new interior and exterior handrails to assist the organization's disabled clients, expanded storage space thanks to shelving units built on-site by Nationals Park carpenters and installation of a brand new washer and dryer that was generously donated by Multi Housing Depot by ARI. In addition, walls and mold-



Photo courtesy of the Washington Nationals.



Photo courtesy of the Washington Nationals.

ings throughout the two-story townhouse received a fresh coat of paint, courtesy of front office volunteers. Even Screech, the Nationals official mascot, rolled up his sleeves to help.

"It's a wonderful thing to have these improvements done," said Jacob Wilkins, Communications and Development Associate for Capitol Hill Group Ministry, which has operated the facility since 2007. "It means so much to us, especially with hypothermia season coming up, that we are able to increase our capacity and just make the facility so much safer in general."

Shirley's Place is an important part of the D.C. community, offering the city's homeless



Photo courtesy of the Washington Nationals.

## ROSSKAM

From p. 5

bought groceries on a tab for what they owed and of Eleanor Roosevelt (who would write an introduction for one of Rosskam's books) visit-



Louise Rosskam,  
Shulman's  
Market, 485  
1/2 N at  
Union Street,  
SW, Wash-  
ington, D.C.,  
1942. Photo  
courtesy of  
the Library  
of Congress.

## November 13 was Public Education Sunday at Westminster Presbyterian Church, in recognition of International Education Week



**Amidon-Bowen Elementary Choir, directed by Ms. Para Perry at Public Education Sunday.**

*Photo by Meg Brinckman.*

**Jefferson Middle School and International Baccalaureate Academy Combined Chorus, led by Ms. Sunita Harris and Mr. Richard Desinord.**

*Photo by Meg Brinckman.*



**Members of Wilson High's Concert Choir performed for the Education Week program at Westminster Church in Southwest on Nov. 13. The full choir has 55 members. At right is Choir Director Lori Williams. Photo by Dale MacIver.**

## BLOTTER

*From p. 3*

a cell phone to call a parent. The phone was snatched and the girls fled. In these and many other instances of crime in Southwest, arrests are possible because many, but not all, assailants live in the Southwest neighborhood or seek sanctuary in the public housing community following a crime.

Residents are urged to be vigilant when leaving Metro at night and when encountering groups of juveniles in Southwest. Similarly, property crimes can be reduced by locking townhouse doors and gates, securing bicycles with U-style locks or by removing the bicycle seat, and by always placing valuables in the trunk of a car instead of in plain sight.

Other concerns included the following: (1) Bob Craycraft asked how vandalism is reported by the police. Vandalism is not counted in the nine categories reported to the FBI each month but may be shown among arrest data. (2) Mary

Williams noted an increase in drug-related activity in the alley behind Carrollburg Place near N Street, SW. The police promised to give the area added attention. (3) Illegal left turns at Fourth and M streets continue to be a problem despite large number of tickets being issued by the police. (4) Traffic violations were noted in the turning lane at M and South Capitol streets, SW and with merging traffic at South Capitol and N streets, SW.

In response to a question about school truancy, the police noted that they return children to school and that school administrators are responsible for contacting the parents.

Master Patrol Officer Maurice Thompson will retire shortly. He will be greatly missed by residents and officials who have collaborated with him over the past 20 years in abating crime in PSA 104.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, December 15, 2011, 7-8:30 P.M., Carrollburg, A Condominium, Thelma Martin Room, 240 M St. SW (ground floor).

## Religious Calendar

### Galilee A.M.E. Church

Worshipping at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St. SW  
202-258-6812  
Rev. S. Isaiah Harvin  
Sunday: 2 p.m.  
Wednesday: Bible Study  
7:30 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m. Worship

### St. Dominic Catholic Parish

603 E St. SW  
202-554-7863  
Fr. George Schommer  
Saturday: 5:15 p.m.  
Sunday: 8 a.m., 10:45 a.m.,  
12:15 p.m. (Spanish),  
and 5:15 p.m.

### St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

14 M St. SE  
202-488-1354  
Fr. Richard Gancayco  
Sunday: 8 a.m.  
Mon. and Fri.: 12:10 p.m.

### St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

600 M St. SW  
202-554-3222  
Rev. Martha Clark  
marthakclark@yahoo.com  
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.  
Tuesday: 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

### St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Worshiping at First Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 Fourth St. NW at Judiciary Square

410-375-5053 (cell)  
Pastor Phillip Huber  
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.  
Thursday: 6 p.m.: Bread and Soup, 6:45 p.m.  
Evening Prayer

### Christ United Methodist Church

900 Fourth St. SW  
202-554-9117  
Rev. Adrienne Terry  
Sunday: 10 a.m.  
Thursday: 12 noon & 6:30 p.m.,  
Bible Study

### St. Paul African Union Methodist Protestant Church

401 I St., SE  
202-997-3049  
Rev. Karen Mills  
Sunday: 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

### Westminster Presbyterian Church

400 I St. SW  
202-484-7700  
Co-Pastors: Rev. Ruth Hamilton and Rev. Brian Hamilton  
Sunday: Worship 11 a.m.  
Blue Monday Blues: 6 - 9 p.m.  
Wellness Wednesday Yoga: 4 - 8 p.m.  
Friday Jazz Nights: 6 - 9 p.m.

### Second Baptist Church

#### Southwest

First & M streets, SW  
202-484-3112  
Pastor C.L. Brown  
Sunday: Church School 8:30 a.m.; Morning Worship: 9:45 a.m.  
Wednesday: Bible Study noon and 7 p.m.

### Second Union Baptist Church

1107 Delaware Ave. SW  
202-484-7012  
Rev. William Harrison, Pastor



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